Notes from the Canyon Ferry Public Working Group Meeting 04/03/07

Shawn Bryant (Supervisory Assistant Facility Operations Specialist) opened the meeting by presenting the meeting agenda that included a public review schedule for the Shoreline Management Guidelines, two examples of bio-technical shoreline protection, and a brief introduction to the Public Conduct Regulations codified in April 2006.

Following presentation of the public review sequence for the Shoreline Management Guidelines, Shawn provided a description of a Bureau of Reclamation-designed bio-technical shoreline protection project at Cave Point that includes placement of a coir log and willow-cottonwood plantings. There were many questions from meeting participants including:

- 1. Would the willow and cottonwood eventually act as a barrier to public access?
- 2. Would the planned bio-technical measures work on sandy-gravel shoreline areas?
- 3. How is wave energy deflected by shoreline walls?
- 4. Will Reclamation help to fund shoreline protection measures?
- 5. How will the coir log function if over-topped by wind-waves?
- 6. Isn't rock rip-rap better at this site?

One attendee suggested that if the elevation of Canyon Ferry Reservoir were held at a lower elevation, shoreline erosion could be reduced.

Shawn and Paul Backlund (Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist) fielded audience questions noting the reasoning for implementing bio-technical designs included the long-term shoreline protection afforded by woody riparian vegetation, and a more natural and aesthetically appealing shoreline appearance. Paul noted that Reclamation was interested in working with individuals seeking shoreline protection. Shawn clarified that shoreline protection proposals must originate from private individuals but must be approved by Reclamation. When asked, seven audience members indicated an interest in shoreline protection.

Shawn then introduced the Public Conduct Regulations for Reclamation-administered land (43 CFR 423) that can be accessed at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/. Shawn noted that the regulations encompass a spectrum of public uses from camping and swimming to designation of special use areas.

One attendee asked for a distinction between the CFR (Code of Federal Regulation) and an act of Congress. Paul noted that the rules were not based on any one specific Congressional act, but were needed to ensure safety and security for visitors to Reclamation-administered land.

Audience members asked about upcoming enforcement plans at Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Paul indicated that the new Public Conduct Rules will allow for the level of security expected by the public and that Reclamation will be working with local law enforcement towards implementation.

Several access-related questions were asked including:

- 1. Does the public have access along the shoreline if it is privately owned?
- 2. Can public access locations be marked so that they can be easily identified?

Paul noted that private land was not accessible without permission and that, upon request, Reclamation would provide public access information.

Shawn encouraged meeting attendees to contact Reclamation for further information about the Public Conduct Regulations and then adjourned the meeting.